



BOROUGH OF WELSHPOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR 1957

WELSHPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL, 1957

MAYOR:

Councillor J. H. Emberton.

MEMBERS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1957:

Aldermen W. C. Ainge, T. Gittins, W. R. Humphreys,
W. Richards; Councillors S. H. Bagshaw, H. Blockley,
R. Cowey, G. C. E. Jones, J. H. Lloyd, A. F. Mapp, E.
J. Rushgrove, C. S. Thomas, R. P. Turner, W. H.
Watson, W. P. Whittall.

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Alderman W. Richards.

TOWN CLERK:

J. Ben Davies, M.B.E.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

I. B. Millar, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

BOROUGH SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

F. A. Lodge, A.R.I.C.S., M.S.A.I., Cert.
(Meat and Foods)

To the Welshpool Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1957 which has been prepared with due regard to the Welsh Board of Health Circular No. 1/1958 (Wales).

The statistics show average rates for the Borough in 1957 with the exception of the rather high loss of life among the newborn. This may have been due to a chance accumulation of adverse factors in the one year, because the average figure for the previous four years was normal in relation to the rest of the county. *country.*

In the section on Infectious Diseases reference is made to the epidemic of Asian 'Flu which affected the Borough in September and October. In this section reference is also made to Pneumonia and a comment upon the high rate for this disease must be made here. There were in fact more notifications in Welshpool than in my other districts combined, and even allowing for the fact that these districts were not affected so much by Asian 'Flu, the rate for acute primary pneumonia still remained excessively high in Welshpool.

The fact that the Welshpool pneumonia rate was nearly five times as large as that for England and Wales is capable of several explanations, but there is one factor, namely housing, which must play a part, perhaps a larger part than is generally realized, in the causation of infections of this type. The ill effects of bad housing are occasioned in ways as devious as they are inevitable. The occupants of such dwellings tend to fall to a lower plane of physical well-being and to harbour chronic infections which they themselves may

be able to contain reasonably well but which, nevertheless, are ready to prey at any time upon the unwary citizen who is less used to them. Or again, such occupants may continue to suffer a subnormal state of health after being satisfactorily rehoused. The reprehensible practice of taking up residence in slum property in order to "graduate" to a Council house is not peculiar to Welshpool but the sooner it can be extirpated the better. While it is gratifying to know that Welshpool leads Montgomeryshire in the building of houses and in demolition of unfit houses, it should also be realized that in matters of this kind Welshpool had considerable leeway to overcome and that much still remains to be done.

The section on Housing contains several encouraging features, one of them being that 82 houses were built or were being built during the year and another of them being that occupied houses in the pre-war Clearance Areas had been reduced to seven. The number of houses demolished in these Clearance Areas was 14 which is at least a welcome if somewhat tenuous commencement to the demolition part of slum clearance. It cannot be too strongly emphasized however, that the toleration of unfit houses, even empty ones, coupled with an undiminished waiting list for Council houses is a potent factor in perpetuating a lowered state of community health in its broadest sense. In these circumstances the impact of any epidemic might be expected to be more severe than usual.

The local health services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946 continued to operate satisfactorily during the year on the lines described in the Annual Report for 1955. There were two additional features however which deserve special mention. One was that by the end of the year building

work was proceeding vigorously on the new clinic on Salop Road. This clinic promises to become a most necessary as well as attractive asset to the town. In it the medical and dental child health clinics will operate and material provision has also been made for ante-natal clinics. When the latter come into operation, much unavoidable congestion will be relieved at the local hospital. The clinic will also serve many other needs and purposes, among them the holding of meetings, small conferences and discussion groups. The other special feature of the year was the successful introduction of a full-time Health Visitor to the Borough and district. Mrs. Wyn Peate, who took up duty in November, 1956 really learned to know the district in detail in the first months of 1957, and her services began very early to be sought after and to be much appreciated. Another useful feature of the new clinic is that it will give the Health Visitor a headquarters where she can base and consolidate her work, and it will also act as a co-ordinating point in relation to members of health and welfare staffs generally.

The section of this Report dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the area was prepared with customary care by the Surveyor/Public Health Inspector, and I must thank him for his assistance in this as in other matters throughout the year.

Lastly, I gladly acknowledge the friendly support which I invariably receive from you Mr. Mayor, the other members of the Council, the Clerk and the staff.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

I. B. MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area of the District—20,427 Acres.

Estimated Mid-Year Population: 6,070.

Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book): 1,929.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1957: £62,984.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £248.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION: No change since last year.

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	54
	Female	...	...	...	...	38
Illegitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	1
	Female	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	95

In addition 113 births (57 male, 56 female) took place in the Borough relating to mothers with Non-Borough residences.

Crude Birth Rate: 15.65 per 1,000 total population.

Corrected Birth Rate (for age and sex distribution):
15.0 per 1,000 population (compared with the provisional figures of 16.1 for England and Wales in 1957, 15.22 for Montgomeryshire and 15.95 for Wales).

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	4
	Female	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	...	6

Stillbirth Rate: 59.4 per 1,000 live and still births (compared with the provisional figures of 22.5 for England and Wales in 1957, 36.6 for Montgomeryshire and 25.9 for Wales).

INFANT MORTALITY

(a) Neonatal Deaths:

Legitimate:	Male	...	...	...	...	2
	Female	...	...	...	...	2
	Total	...	...	...	...	4

Neonatal Mortality: 42.1 per 1,000 live births (compared with a provisional figure of 16.5 for England and Wales in 1957).

(b) Post-natal Deaths: Nil. (England and Wales Rate: 6.6 per 1,000 live births).

(c) Total Infant Mortality: 42.1 per 1,000 live births (compared with the provisional figure of 23.1 for England and Wales in 1957, 22.0 for Montgomeryshire and 28.38 for Wales).

NOTE: The figure for Montgomeryshire is an average of 30 for urban districts and 17 for rural districts.

(d) Perinatal Mortality: 99 per 1,000 total births (compared with a provisional figure of 36.2 for England and Wales in 1957).

The causes of this mortality are listed as follows:

	Male	Female	Cause
(i) Infant Deaths	2		1. Toxaemia and prematurity 2. Congenital malformation
		2	1. Prematurity 2. Ante-partum haemorrhage, atelectasis and prematurity
(ii) Still Births	4		1. Congenital malformation 2. Obstetrical abnormality and toxaemia. 3. Toxaemia and prematurity 4. Obstetrical abnormality.
		2	1. Congenital abnormality. 2. Ante-partum haemorrhage, multiple pregnancy and prematurity.

It will be seen that prematurity as usual predominated in the causation of perinatal mortality.

It figured either alone (only once) or in conjunction with other causes in five of the ten cases.

Lack of ante-natal care or a deficiency of it is known to prejudice the chances of a good perinatal mortality rate but in this unusually high rate for 1957 only one case could be said to be doubtful in this respect. Apart from three, where death was either unavoidable or merciful, six of the other seven appear to have had ante-natal care.

In the 1958 First Quarter Return of the Registrar General for England and Wales a brief table is given on international comparisons of perinatal mortality for the year 1955. The list of countries in order of descending mortality is as follows:

Portugal	47.4	Denmark	33.9
Italy	46.2	Finland	33.6
W. Germany	44.0	Canada	31.5
Japan	43.9	Switzerland	30.9
Scotland	42.1	U.S.A.	30.4
Austria	40.5	Netherlands	29.2
England and Wales	37.6	Sweden	28.4
Belguim	35.4	N. Zealand	27.8
France	34.0	Norway	25.9

Countries other than England and Wales in this list had mortalities which averaged 2.0 above that for England and Wales in the year 1950 and about 2.0 below that for England and Wales in 1955, the latter having fallen by only 0.1.

Deaths: All Causes:

Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	62

Crude Death Rate: 10.2 per 1,000 population.

Corrected (for age and sex) Death Rate: 10.62 per 1,000 population (compared with the provisional rate of 11.5 for England and Wales in 1957, 11.82 for Montgomeryshire and 12.52 for Wales).

DEATHS BY AGE, CAUSE AND SEX:

Cause	Sex	Under 1 year	1-10	20-30	40-50	Age Group 50-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	90+	Total	
											M	F
Measles	F	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	F	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm Rectum	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm Colon	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm Pancreas	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Leukaemia	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	—	—	—	—	1	2	1*	2	—	7	—
Coronary Disease—Angina	F	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	8	—	—	12
Hypertension with Heart Disease	F	—	—	—	—	—	2*	—	—	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
Other Circulatory Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia	F	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F	—	—	—	—	1*	—	1	—	1	—	2
Ulcer of Duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	M	1	—	—	1*	—	—	1*	—	—	3	—
Suicide	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	M	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	M	2	—	—	3	3	8	7	3	2	28	—
	F	2	1	1	1	3	5	10	10	1	—	34
GRAND TOTALS		4	1	1	4	6	13	17	13	3	—	62

*denotes multiple causes as follows:—

Leukaemia also associated with chronic peptic ulcer and chronic bronchitis.

Vascular lesion of the nervous system also associated with neoplasm of the prostate.

Coronary heart disease—one of the male deaths was associated with anaemia and convalescence after broncho pneumonia, and one of the female deaths was associated with hypertension.

Other circulatory disease also associated with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Pneumonia associated with cardiac disease.

Other respiratory diseases—this case also had coronary thrombosis.

Nephritis associated with multiple myelomatosis.

III defined disease—in the 40-50 age group, death was due to intestinal obstruction and hypertension and in the 70-80 age group, the death was due to meningitis.

NOTE: The measles death was due to tracheo-bronchitis as a complication.

Average age at death (excluding juvenile deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	69.4 years
Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	66 "
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	72.3 "
Average age at death due to cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	63.8 "
Average age at death due to coronary disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	66.3 "
Average age at death due to accidents, suicide, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	45 "
Average age at death (excluding cancer, coronary disease and accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	73 "

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Year	Popula- tion	Live—Birth Rate		Still Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Perinatal Mortality	
1946	5,714	21.9	19.1	24.2	27.2	12.8	11.5	32.0	42.9	44.3	
1947	5,856	20.73	20.5	16.1	24.1	12.3	12.0	24.5	41.4	40.3	
1948	5,817	21.8	17.9	23.0	23.2	11.7	10.8	15.7	33.9	38.5	
1949	5,865	22.4	16.7	14.9	22.7	11.3	11.7	30.3	32.4	38.0	
1950	6,048	18.0	15.8	18.0	22.7	11.9	11.6	45.9	29.6	37.7	
1951	5,980	23.1	15.5	7.2	23.0	14.2	12.5	28.9	29.7	38.1	
1952	5,952	21.2	15.3	15.6	22.7	10.9	11.3	31.7	27.6	37.5	
1953	5,980	18.1	15.5	35.7	22.5	10.2	11.4	27.7	26.8	62.5	37.0
1954	6,010	15.2	15.2	20.6	23.5	11.3	11.3	21.0	25.4	31.0	38.1
1955	6,020	17.5	15.0	9.0	23.2	10.2	11.7	9.1	24.9	18.0	37.6
Average for											
1946-55	5,924.2	20.1	16.6	18.12	23.5	11.75	11.6	26.9	31.5	38.6	
1956	6,070	13.6	15.6	44.4	22.9	11.23	11.7	11.6	23.7	44.4	36.8
1957	6,070	15.0	16.1	59.4	22.5	10.6	11.5	42.1	23.1	99.0	36.2

Note.—The second set of figures refers to England and Wales.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER

TOWN SUPPLY.

(a) Rainfall figures for the year:—

January	1.79	July	4.22
February	4.15	August	5.93
March	2.28	September	6.46
April	0.35	October	2.36
May	1.59	November	2.82
June	1.44	December	1.69

Total for year 35.08 inches

This compares with 32.15 inches in 1956 and 28.26 inches in 1955.

(b) Minimum supply to reservoirs was 65,975 gallons per day recorded in June and July. Minimum waste line was 2,000 gallons per hour. Average consumption was 110,000 gallons per day.

(c) The connections to the town supply are as follows:—

1,366 houses, 194 Other properties, 1 farm, 2 small holdings, 3 drinking troughs.

(d) The advantage gained by increased storage as a result of improvements made the previous year to the top pool was not felt due to the high rainfall.

(e) An extension of the town's main was made to the Refuse Tip.

GUILDSFIELD AND GROES WATER SUPPLY

This district is supplied with water from the Trinity Well Scheme and a supply is available from the Glyn Springs when an emergency arises.

TREWERN WATER SUPPLY

This district is supplied with water from the Gelli Springs and continues to operate independently though the undertaking is connected to the Trinity Well Supply for use during emergencies.

The total number of properties now supplied from this source is as follows:—

13 farms, 3 drinking troughs, 2 other properties,
92 dwellings, 1 Standpipe.

A metered supply of water is being provided to Criggion Radio Station. A bulk water supply is provided at Criggion for Forden R.D.C.

CASTLE CAEREINION WATER SUPPLY

The total number of properties now supplied is as follows:—

3 farms, 2 small holdings, 19 dwellings, 2 other properties.

TRINITY WELL WATER SUPPLY

20 Council houses at Guilsfield, 10 private houses and 1 farm were connected to this supply during the year.

At the end of the year the following properties were receiving a supply of water from the Trinity Well source.

312 houses, 40 farms, including farm houses,
1 hospital, 61 drinking troughs (not metered),
7 Other properties, 13 standpipes, 2 schools.

The daily consumption is 75,000 gallons.

A bulk water supply is provided at Pool Quay for Llanfyllin R.D.C.

HOPE VILLAGE

An extension of the mains to supply Hope Village will be carried out next year.

LONG MOUNTAIN WATER SCHEME

This scheme is at present held up pending settlement of claims made by objectors to the abstraction of water from the Mulsop Springs.

BELAN WATER SCHEME

A scheme has been prepared for extending the Town's mains into the Belan Area. This scheme is the first stage and will extend as far as Sarnybryncaled, the estimated cost being £4,827.

SAMPLES

During the year 65 samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis, the results being:—

Town Supply	Trinity Well
20 Class 1	14 Class 1
1 Class 4	1 Class 4
Castle Caereinion	Gelli
3 Class 1	13 Class 1
1 Class 2	1 Class 2
1 Class 3	2 Class 4
2 Class 4	

Groes—Glyn
3 Class 1

Private
1 Class 2
2 Class 4

2. FOOD

184 certificates in respect of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption were issued in 1957 as against 160 certificates in 1956.

Summary of food condemned is as follows:—

318 tins food, 32 tins Milk, 130lb. Cooked Ham, 20lb. Corned Beef, 6lb. Bacon, 9lb. Pork Luncheon Meat.

ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district. One application for registration of premises from retailer was granted, making a total of 24 in the Borough.

MILK ORDERS

5 Dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of Tuberculin Tested milk and 3 Dealer's licences authorising the use of special designation "Pasteurised."

MILK SAMPLING

Out of a total of 19 samples submitted for laboratory examination during the year 13 were reported to be satisfactory. Of the remaining six, four were on the same day in June from different dairies. This revealed the inadequacy of the cooling methods in hot weather. The other two unsatisfactory samples were taken in July and August.

FOOD CLEANLINESS

10 inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with the Council's byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three registered slaughterhouses in the town which are kept in fairly good condition.

MEAT INSPECTION

The quality of stock slaughtered was extremely high and only very small portions were condemned. The carcass of one sheep and one pig were condemned (casualties).

The following table gives the relevant details for 1957:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows			Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	104	56	15	260	1900	—	
Number inspected	92	50	12	240	1700	—	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	2	—	—	6	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci							
	—	4	—	0.42	0.41	—	
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Cysticercosis:							
Carcases condemned either in whole or part	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	

3. SEWERAGE

TOWN

20 houses have been connected to the sewer during the year. Discharge of sewage is still into the River Severn.

PROPOSED NEW SCHEME

It is disappointing to have to report that little progress has been made with the new Sewage Disposal Works scheme. Apart from the financial restrictions in the latter part of the year certain other difficulties remained to be overcome, and, it is hoped to be able to state in my next Report that work has begun.

GUILDSFIELD

This village is sewered on the combined system to a disposal plant which is maintained in good order and gives little trouble. A further 20 houses have been connected to the system during the year.

TREWERN

The Council's housing estate is sewered on the separate system, the sewage being treated at the sewage disposal plant which is maintained in good order.

CASTLE CAEREINION

This village is sewered on the combined system to an unsatisfactory disposal plant. Negotiations concerning a suitable site for a new works have still not been successful.

POOL QUAY

The disposal plant for this village is maintained in good order and gives no trouble.

4. DRAINAGE

All drains laid, other than for Council houses, were tested by the Department.

5. SANITARY INSPECTIONS

11 informal notices were served during the year requiring repairs to roofs, drains, etc.

130 blocked drains were dealt with without the serving of any notices.

6. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	8	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	45	8	1	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred To H.M. By H.M.		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Inspector	Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	2	—

PART VII OF THE ACT

Outwork

Number of out workers in August list required by Section 110 ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists						Nil
Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. DISINFECTIONS

Following outbreaks of infectious disease and filthy condition of premises 6 houses were disinfected.

8. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The arrangement for dealing with Rodent Destruction were continued and the results were as follows:—

2 warehouses have been inspected, one of which has been treated for mice, with very good results. The town sewers were treated on two occasions, the first resulting in 14 poison "takes" and 9 "takes" on the second. 5 school canteens have been inspected 3 of which have been treated for mice, and one school for rats with satisfactory results. The Smithfield was treated on 3 occasions. The Library was treated on 2 occasions for rats and mice. 7 farms have been treated with satisfactory results. 72 private houses in the Borough were treated. 5 business premises have been treated.

Total visits by Rodent Control Officer ...	793
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Total number of treatments given ...	116
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Materials Used:

Sausage Rusk	Oat Meal	Pin Head	Oatmeal	Poison
69 lbs. 5oz.	575 lbs. 3oz.	35 lbs. 4oz.		27 lbs. 2¼oz.

9. HOUSE REFUSE

Weekly collections of refuse are made from all houses in the town and bi-weekly collections from all villages and houses en-route. Disposal is by controlled tipping on waste land conveniently situated half a mile from the town centre.

A complete drainage scheme was carried out for the whole of the land contained in the present agreement.

10. SHOPS AND OFFICES

The provisions of the Shops Act were complied with and no Court action was found necessary.

11. HOUSING

Houses erected during the year

By Local Authority	34
By Private Enterprise	10
Houses in course of erection at end of year	
By Local Authority	46
By Private Enterprise	2
Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of year	360

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS, HOUSING ACT 1949—54.

Since we took over responsibility for the scheme 29 approval of Application Notices have been issued and grants paid in 17 cases amounting to £3,480.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority Officers—6.

Number of houses which are in confirmed Clearance Orders and still occupied—7.

Number of houses demolished—18 (4 not in Clearance Area).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year diseases were notified as follows:—

			Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	...	...	10	11	21
Measles	...	...	16	21	37
Whooping Cough	...		1	3	4
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	2	5	7
Totals	...	...	29	41	70

PNEUMONIA

These notifications could be divided into two groups.

The first group (3 male, 3 female), occurring in the first Quarter, consisted of children and was in reality a continuation of the group of cases which were being notified at the end of 1956.

The second group (7 male, 8 female), occurring in the last Quarter, consisted mainly of adults and was associated with the outbreak of Asian 'Flu in October, Eleven of the cases (6 male, 5 female) were notified as cases of influenzal pneumonia.

There were no deaths among these notified cases. There was, however, one death due to unnotified pneumonia (as recorded in the Vital Statistics). Cause of death in this case was also attributable to ~~cardial~~ cardiac disease.

Analysis of the cases is as follows:—

PNEUMONIA NOTIFICATIONS:

Age			First Quarter		Last Quarter	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	1	—	1	—	—	—
4— 5 years	2	—	1	—	1	—
5— 6 „	—	2	—	2	—	—
6— 7 „	1	1	1	1	—	—
10—11 „	1*	—	—	—	1	—
30—40 „	1*	2(1*)	—	—	1	2
40—50 „	1*	1*	—	—	1	1
50—60 „	2*	2(1*)	—	—	2	2
60—70 „	1*	3(2*)	—	—	1	3
Totals	10	11	3	3	7	8

* Influenzal Pneumonia.

NOTE: The Pneumonia Notification Rate was 3,460 per million compared with 728 per million for England and Wales in 1957.

INFLUENZA

The new Asian variant of this disease struck Welshpool and district with considerable force in the second half of September and first half of October.

Among several unusual features of this epidemic was its precision. In fact its character and timing were as accurate as had been forecast in June by officials of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation.

Thought to have had its origin in China, its first impact upon Western Civilization occurred in Hong Kong in mid-April. From this outpost of the West it was traced in quick succession or almost simultaneously to Taiwan, Manila, Japan, Sarawak, North Borneo, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and India. The attack rate was very high and it was estimated that there had been more than 100,000 cases in Taiwan in the course

of 2 or 3 weeks. Most of the cases had been described as mild with a duration of one week and the fatality rate was low.

In Welshpool the most noticeable effect was upon the schools, especially the senior schools, where the attendance dropped to as low as 35—40 per cent of those on the rolls on several days. Teachers were also affected in similar proportions. These low attendances lasted only about a week or ten days because the over-all rates for this period were not unduly depressed as evidence by the following figures:—

Schools	Average Percentage School Attendance			Percentage Deficit (September plus October)
	Sept. 1956— July 1958 (excluding September— October, 1957)	September 1957	October 1957	
Senior:				
Secondary Modern	90.8	81.8	81.4	18.4
Grammar School	92.47	87.6	82.1	15.24
Junior:				
Buttington—Trewern	92.96	92.7	78.9	14.32
Guilsfield	93.46	94	82.8	10.66
Berriew Road	92.94	88.9	80.3	16.68
Infants:				
Gungrog Road	89.04	90.6	68.4	20.64
Ardwyn	88.57	87	61.1	29.04
Other Primary Schools:				
Maesmawr	95.79 (May—December 1957 excluding September —October)	90.4	80.8	20.38
Belan	91.1 (May—December 1957 excluding September)	85.7	90.6	5.9
Other County Schools:				
Llanfyllin High School	90.97 (May 1957— April 1958)	92.9	88.7	2.27
Newtown High School*	92 (May 1957— January 1958 excluding September —October)	87	87	10

* The figures for this school are approximate.

Because the epidemic did not involve school holiday periods, the figures in the last column can be interpreted (with a certain amount of reserve) as giving a measure of the degree to which the various schools were effected. The infection hit the Secondary Modern School first, thereafter spreading rapidly to the Grammar School and then the Junior Schools.

It is likely that the apparent high incidence rate for the Infants' Schools was at least partly, if not entirely, due to the boosting effect of children being kept at home on account of the incapacitation of their parents. Certainly the impression was gained at the time that the work of the Senior Schools was being severely curtailed. An already fast-moving infection, it is perhaps not surprising that it received even greater momentum on arrival at the overcrowded senior schools especially the secondary modern school. From the attendance rates on the first two or three days it could have been theoretically possible for every pupil to have become a victim inside five or six days. It is known however that an appreciable minority did not succumb and the total amount of disorganisation, after allowing several days for recovery, was confined to a period of one week to ten days.

Brookland Hall School was virtually paralysed for a few days in common with many other boarding schools throughout the country. In this case the infection is thought to have reached the school on the first day of term (18/9/57), although the main outbreak did not commence until the 22nd September when 19 boys succumbed, followed during that week by all but four of the other pupils. Boarding schools are of course, ipso facto, rather apt to be vulnerable targets for infections of this type.

The Junior and Infants' Schools on the other hand were affected less suddenly and perhaps less severely so that the day-to-day picture appeared better.

Apart from the effect of incapacitation of parents on attendance rates of infants already mentioned, there was probably also some degree of "protective" withdrawal of children owing to the apprehension regarding Asian 'flu.

Adults generally were not affected as unhesitatingly as children, and this is supported by the fact that the arrangements made by the Ministry of Health with the local National Insurance Offices were not called into effect. The local N.I. Offices were to inform the Medical Officer of Health when the percentage of sickness benefit claims showed either a 30% increase on the figure for the previous week or an increase to 200% of the average weekly figure during the period 4/4/56—4/12/56. This latter figure of 200% was a new feature of these arrangements.

Reference has already been made to the cases of influenzal pneumonia resulting from this epidemic. Ten cases (5 male, 5 female) were notified as occurring between the 27th September and the 10th October and one case (male) on the 27th October. It will be noted that only one case occurred within the school age group. Only two cases were notified in my other districts in the period September—December, but, as the school attendance table suggests, the epidemic was not nearly so forceful in these areas.

MEASLES

There were 37 notifications of measles in 28 families, the average age being 4.8 years (male 5.0, female 4.6). As there were 260 notifications in 1955 and only one in

1956, more than 37 might have been expected in 1957, especially as 31 of them occurred in the urban part of the Borough. In the first seven months of 1958, 39 cases have been notified but most of these have been in the rural part of the Borough most likely in association with the large number of cases occurring in Forden Rural District at that time.

The following table gives an analysis of the cases.

MEASLES NOTIFICATIONS

Age	Male	Female	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		4th Quarter	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
1—2 yrs	—	3	—	2	—	1	—	—
2—3 yrs	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
3—4 yrs	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	2
4—5 yrs	4	2	3	—	—	—	1	2
Totals under 5 yrs	5	9	4	2	—	2	1	5
5—6 yrs	7	3	7	3	—	—	—	—
6—7 yrs	1	4	—	2	—	2	1	—
7—8 yrs	1	3	—	2	1	1	—	—
8—9 yrs	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	—
Totals 5—10 yrs	10	12	8	8	1	4	1	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	16	21	12	10	2	6	2	5

Epidemics of measles are known to occur in this country every two years. The last two were in the second Quarters of 1955 and 1957. In Welshpool however, the peaks of infection tend to occur at four-yearly intervals with occasional lesser peaks in the intervening two-year periods. The annual numbers of notifications since 1941 can be displayed semi-diagrammatically as follows:

1941 3
 1942 0
 1943 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 1
 1944 4
 1945 10, 10, 10. 8
 1946 10, 5

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION SCHEME

The rather meagre supplies of vaccine in 1957 were fairly distributed throughout the County and by the end of the year 2,334 children had received two inoculations and 421 one inoculation. This represented the complete vaccination of 31% of those registered at that time. The number registered was about 80% of those eligible.

TUBERCULOSIS

An analysis of the cases is given below.

No deaths occurred and following the removal to hospital of five of the cases, the relevant measures were taken regarding disinfection.

	Male	Age in years	Female	Age in years
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	40	3	20 25 30
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	57	2	9 48

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

At a conference in September 1956 at Wrexham it was confirmed that a new departure in mass miniature radiography routine would be effected in the near future for Wales generally. The main innovation was that the Unit was to become partly static and in 1957 a calendar was widely distributed showing clearly the dates on which it would be available in Welshpool. Twice monthly at first, it was found that the response did not merit such frequent visits and these were eventually reduced to between 7 and 9 in the half year.

TUBERCULOSIS VACCINATION

Quite a proportion of the cases, perhaps half, might have been prevented by vaccination. Of course vaccination, in conjunction with clinical and radiological investigation is offered to the contacts of these cases where appropriate, but vaccination as a general routine measure was not used during the year. Plans were made however to commence a vaccination scheme for school children in the 13—14 age group in 1958.

PARATYPHOID B.

In August information was received from the Health Department at Bedford that a case of this infection had occurred in Bedford and that two children from Welshpool had been direct contacts.

Two families in Welshpool were involved both of them having some connection with the catering industry. One person was suspended from work for a few days and eighteen laboratory tests were carried out on eleven contacts. All the results were favourable and there were no secondary cases in Welshpool.

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